

NEWS RELEASE from

WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

**Member of Congress
Third District of Illinois**

Washington, D.C. (202) 225-5701

Chicago (312) 886-0481

April 2, 2004

For more information, contact

Ashley Musselman at (202) 225-5701

Jason Tai at (202) 225-5701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIPINSKI ANNOUNCES PASSAGE OF \$275 BILLION HIGHWAY & TRANSIT BILL

Illinois Would Receive \$9.68 Billion In Federal Transportation Funds

[Washington, D.C.] Today, Congressman Bill Lipinski announced that he joined his colleagues in passing a bill that would garner \$9.68 billion in federal transportation dollars for Illinois. The bill, H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA LU), a \$275 billion, six-year highway and transit funding bill, passed the House today by a vote of 357 to 65.

Lipinski, the top Democrat on the House Subcommittee on Highways, Transit, & Pipelines and senior Illinois Member on the Committee, has played a key role in crafting TEA-LU.

“The State of Illinois’ transportation system would be bolstered substantially by TEA LU,” said Lipinski, “This bill would fund and vastly improve our highways and roadways, buses and subways, pedestrian and bicycle pathways, and the safety of our infrastructure. Among other things, these gains would help to ease Illinoisians’ everyday life and reduce the time they spend commuting.”

For Illinois, TEA LU would provide a total of \$7.12 billion in formula highway funds, this is a 28% increase over what Illinois obtains under the current authorization, TEA-21. Under this bill, the state of Illinois would receive a 31% increase in federal transit funds over TEA-21. This amounts to \$2.56 billion in formula transit funds. This would signify an increase over the Administration’s proposal, which would only provide Illinois with \$5.94 billion in highway funds and \$2.37 billion in transit funds. Under TEA-21, the current authorization, Illinois received \$5.56 billion in highway funds and \$1.95 billion in transit funds.

TEA LU would provide a total of \$275 billion in new funding over six years – a 26 percent increase over current funding levels and a 7 percent increase over the Administration’s reauthorization proposal.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, every \$1 billion invested in infrastructure generates 47,500 jobs and \$6.1 billion in related economic activity.

“TEA LU would provide thousands of new jobs and significantly improve the current state of our economy. A jobs bill is just the shot in the arm our struggling economy needs right now.”

###